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TO AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

T O P S E C R E T/SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

WH40133

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC. KISSINGER

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

TOHAK 48

JANUARY 14, 1974

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. I HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH MCNAMARA. HE WAS SURPRISINGLY WELL INFORMED ON ALL OF THE PRESS STORIES WHICH HAD APPEARED AND ALSO HAD APPARENTLY ACQUIRED SOME INFORMATION BACK AROUND THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT ITSELF. AFTER CONSIDERABLE EXCHANGE, MCNAMARA FELT THAT THE ONLY PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO MAKE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE FOR YOU TO SAY THAT THIS WAS A MATTER DESERVING A FULL INQUIRY AND THAT WHILE YOU WERE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER, YOU WOULD COOPERATE IN SUCH AN INQUIRY. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS PRUDENT WOULD DEPEND ON THE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY. I EXPLAINED THAT STENNIS WAS PREPARED TO TAKE JURISDICTION TO HEAD OFF AN INQUIRY BY ANY OTHER BODY, BUT THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON SEEKING AN INQUIRY. OTHER THAN THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT SORT OF A STATEMENT, MCNAMARA DID NOT FEEL YOU SHOULD MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT. A BACKGROUND STATEMENT HE FELT WOULD BE UNWISE IN THAT IT WOULD FURTHER STIMULATE THE ISSUE AND PROLONG ITS LIFE IN THE PRESS. FUNDAMENTALLY, HIS JUDGMENT WAS THAT YOU SHOULD DO NOTHING. HE FEELS THAT YOUR POSITION IS SO OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG THAT THIS INCIDENT CAN REALLY DO NOTHING TO ERODE IT. IN COMING TO THIS CONCLUSION, HE POINTED OUT THAT CASES--LIKE YOUNG AND EHRLICHMAN--WILL BE COMING TO TRIAL AND THAT YOU MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN THOSE TRIALS. TO SAY SOME-

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

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THING NOW, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DO NOT KNOW ALL ASPECTS OF THE CASE AND THE INVESTIGATIONS, COULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR YOU LATER ON. HE WAS VERY WARM, VERY SYMPATHETIC, AND VERY UNDERSTANDING OF THE HELPLESSNESS OF YOUR POSITION SO FAR AWAY. AGAIN AND AGAIN HE MADE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR POSITION WAS FAR TOO STRONG FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT TO BE OF REAL CONCERN.

2. ROCKEFELLER DOES NOT PLAN TO COME TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. PROBABLY HE WILL BE HERE NEXT MONDAY.

WARM REGARDS.

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